

NEWPORT NEWS, VA – Today, Virginia Third Congressional District Congressman Robert C. “Bobby” Scott reacted to the death of Rev. W. Henry Maxwell:

“It is with sadness and a great sense of personal loss that I express my deepest condolences to the family and many friends of Rev. W. Henry Maxwell as we mourn his passing. He will be long remembered for his great ministerial, civic and legislative accomplishments and contributions. He will also be remembered for his friendship and love of us all.

“Rev. Maxwell was a good friend and mentor to me. Many note that he followed me in the Virginia House and Senate. What many don’t know is that I followed him in becoming involved in community activities and politics. He was President of the Newport News NAACP Branch when I came back to Newport News after finishing law school. I followed him as Branch President in 1975. He ran for Newport News City Council in 1976. Though his bid was not successful, it served as a foundation for my successful bid for the Virginia House of Delegates a year later, with his coaching and assistance. When I was elected to the Virginia Senate in 1982, he was elected to the House of Delegates. We worked together on a number of successful legislative ventures such as Newsome House, the Virginia School at Hampton and Judicial Elections. He was an effective advocate for the poor and downtrodden. He was highly respected in the legislature for his high sense of morality and integrity, and was well liked by his colleagues for his friendly and caring demeanor toward all.

“This community was blessed to have the benefit of this great Minister, Civic Leader and Legislator. May God bless his family and loved ones in their time of bereavement.”

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